Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program

Jane Lux
Program Coordinator
NGB-J1
703-601-0577
Jane.Lux@us.army.mil
CTR – Alutiiq International Solutions, LLC

This briefing is
UNCLASSIFIED

The Realities of Sexual Assault

Block 2

Sexual Assault Response Coordinator Training

Disclaimer

- Recognize that this crime touches many of us personally
- If you need to leave the room, please do so
- Please be respectful in your comments

- Imagine an event so terrorizing that it actually harms your brain
  - Trauma can alter the synapses in the brain so that they detect danger when it is not present
- Imagine that you believed that you would die during this event
  - 58% of victims expect to die (Kilpatrick et al., 1998)

- Now imagine that this event was intentionally perpetrated by someone who you know
  - 76% of assailants are current or former spouses, cohabitating partners, dates, and boyfriends/girlfriends

    (Tjaden and Thoennes, 1998)

- Now imagine that the perpetrator told you that you were worthless and this event left you feeling degraded, vulnerable, and sad
  - In recovery, victims are confronted by society's misconception that sexual assault victims are immoral, bad, and deserved it (Whatley, 1996)

- Imagine needing the protection of police but being afraid to ask for it because you think they might blame you and do nothing
  - 82% of sexual assaults are not reported

(Tjaden and Thoennes, 2000)

- Imagine that the only way to stop the offender from doing this to someone else is to endure more than a year of having your reality and your life scrutinized and questioned
  - Rape prosecutions can take in excess of 1 year

"I remember not knowing what would happen when he stopped.
Life or death was all I thought was at stake.
Who could have imagined this."

From "Common Expression", in The Rape Poems, by Frances Driscoll (NY: Pleasure Boat Studio: Literary Press, 1997)

These are the Realities of Sexual Assault

Rape Is

Cambridge Documentary Films

Incidence and Prevalence

1 in 6

Women

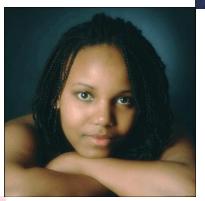
will be the victim of a rape or an attempted rape during her lifetime

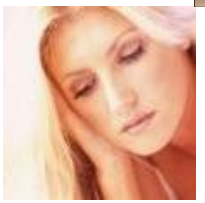
(Tjaden and Thoennes, 2000)

Incidence and Prevalence

1 in 4 Women

in **college** will be victims of rape or attempted rape during their college career





(Fisher et al., 2000)

Incidence and Prevalence

39%

of victims have been raped more than one time

(Kilpatrick et al., 1992)

Social Context of Sexual Assault

- Rape myth acceptance
  - Women's "place"
  - Virgin/Whore Dichotomy
  - Men and Women as sexual adversaries
- Objectification of women
- Women's economic and legal status

Social Context of Sexual Assault

- Just World Theory
  - Victim blame attributions
- Victim Blamed = Offender Excused
  - Victim's clothing caused violence?
  - Victim's character caused violence?
  - Victim's acquaintance with offender caused violence?
  - Victim's behavior caused violence?

(Whatley, 1996)

Social Context of Sexual Assault

- Gender socialization
- Sexual coercion continuum
- Acceptance of violence

Victim Impact

- Rape victims are…

  6.2 times more likely to develop PTSD…

  3 times more likely to develop depression…

  4.1 times more likely to contemplate suicide…

  13 times more likely to attempt suicide…

  than their counterparts who have never been victims of crime.

(Kilpatrick et al., 1992)

Victim Impact

- Rape victims are at least…

  2.5 times more likely to have two or more major alcohol-related problems.

  7 times more likely to have two or more serious drug-related problems.

- Rates are substantially higher for rape victims with PTSD.

(Kilpatrick et al., 1992)

Medical Concerns

- Only **17%** of all victims receive medical examinations after being assaulted

(Kilpatrick et al., 1992)

- Only **32%** of rape or attempted rape victims with injuries get medical care. Only **27%** of injured victims of other sexual assaults receive medical treatment

(Rennison, 2002)

Medical Concerns

- **61%** of victims fear getting pregnant (Kilpatrick et al., 1992)
- **25,000** victims get pregnant annually (Stewart and Trussell, 2000)
- **92%** of victims fear contracting HIV/AIDS (Resnick et al., 2002)

Reporting

- Only **18%** of sexual assaults are reported to law enforcement

  (Tjaden and Thoennes, 2000)

- Reasons victims don't report
  - Fear of being blamed
  - Don't want families to know
  - Don't want other people to know
  - Don't want their names in the media

  (Kilpatrick et. al, 1992)

Incidence and Prevalence

ONE

MAN

IN

THIRTY-THREE*

(*excludes the 21% of men assaulted in prison annually)

(Tjaden and Thoennes, 2000)

Incidence and Prevalence

ONE

MAN

IN

SEVENTEEN

will experience a completed or attempted sexual assault during his lifetime

(*Sexual Assault in Colorado*, 1999)

Men as Victims

- Existing Data
  - Studies of incarcerated men
  - Studies of boys and male adolescents
  - Studies of victims of hate crimes
- The Gap
  - Non-incarcerated adult male sexual assault victims are <u>not</u> part of the large studies

(Lisak, 2004)

Prevalence of Sexual Assault in Adult Men

- Small sample size, limited number of studies
  - Non-replicated data
  - Different methodologies
- 7.2% of adult men in study sexually assaulted after 15 yrs
- 16% of college men are sexually assaulted

(Sterman et al., 2004)

Assault Profiles

- Caveats
  - Non-replicated data
  - Different methodologies
- Tentative profiles
  - Gang sexual assaults are more likely with male victims
  - Weapons are more likely with male victims
  - Injuries occur in 25%-60% of male victims
  - Inconsistent data about whether acquaintance or stranger assaults are more prevalent

(Sterman et al., 2004)

Help-Seeking

- Lower rates of help-seeking than female victims
- Male victims are 1%-10% of the victims seeking help from Crisis Centers and medical facilities
- Barriers to help-seeking
  - Stigma
  - Shame
  - Unaware of services available

(Sterman et al., 2004)

System Response

- Stereotyping of victims
  - Misperception that all male victims are gay
  - Disbelief that men are sexually assaulted
- Lack of services
  - Known gender differences in individual victim's reactions
  - Services designed predominantly for women
  - Denial of access to services

(Sterman et al., 2004)

System Response

- 5%-10% of sexual assault victims reporting to law enforcement are men
- Barriers to reporting
  - Social
    - Feminization of sexual violence
    - Masculinization of invulnerability
  - Individual
    - Internalized social attitudes
    - Too costly in loss of self-esteem and social status

(Sterman et al., 2004)

Meanings for Men

- Same spectrum as women
  - Except not misogyny
- Additional meanings
  - Imposition of homosexual identity
  - Attack on core masculinity

Attack on Masculinity

- Weakness
- Powerlessness
- Fear
- Intense emotional pain
- Vulnerability
- Attacked
- Defeated

Masculinity and Recovery

- Needing support
- Unable to actively seek help
- Unable to fully experience the emotional content needed for recovery

(Lisak, 2004)

Military Women: Prior Victimization

- Study of 1,887 female Navy recruits:
  - 35% victims of rape
  - 57% victims of childhood physical abuse (CPA) or childhood sexual abuse (CSA)
  - Victims of CSA 4.8 times more likely to be raped (Merrill et al., 1999)
- Study of Navy recruits:
  - 45.5% of women victims of rape or attempted rape
  - 36.1% (rape); 9.4% (attempted rape)

(Merrill et al., 1998)

Incidence and Prevalence

- Study of 327 women treated in a VA clinical program for women with stress disorders:
  - 43% reported rape or attempted rape while in the military (Fontana, 1998)
- Study of 3,632 female VA outpatients:
  - 23% reported sexual assault while in the military (Hankin, 1999)
- Study of 558 female veterans:
  - 28% raped while in the military (Sadler et al., 2003)

Major Findings

Air Force Assessment

- Objective: Assess AF sexual assault prevention and response capabilities; provide recommendations for improvement
- Findings:
  - No cogent AF-wide sexual assault policy or single point of contact
  - Commanders unaware of prevalence of sexual assault problem
  - Education, training & prevention primarily focused on sexual harassment in the workplace
  - Victim's lack of privacy is the most frequently quoted barrier to reporting sexual assaults
  - Current sexual assault response programs emphasize investigative/judicial aspects
  - Victim care is inadequate
  - AEF/deployed environment creates unique challenges for prevention and response

Sexual Assault Data

Data reflects # of cases opened based on alleged sexual assault where the victim was a uniformed member

Sexual Assault Allegations Include:

- Rape
- Forcible sodomy
- Assault with intent to commit rape or sodomy, indecent assault
- Attempt to commit any of these offenses

AF Data	2002-2003	2004	2005	2006 (1st Qtr)
Investigations (Total)	459 (scope changed)	456	432	97
Investigations (AOR)	14	13	13	4
Restricted Reports			181 (from 14 Jun)	64
Restricted to Unrestricted Reports			29	11

2005 AF Sexual Assault Data

REPORTED SEXUAL ASSAULTS (UNRESTRICTED)	CY TOTAL
Reported sexual assaults by/against service members	**432**
Service member on service member	231
Service member on non-service member	136
Non-service member on service member	25
Unidentified subject on service member	40

2005 AOR Sexual Assault Data

REPORTED SEXUAL ASSAULTS	AIR FORCE
Reported sexual assaults by/against service members	15*
Service member on service member	10
Service member on non-service member	0
Non-service member on service member	4
Unidentified subject on service member	0

* includes 1 restricted report

Key Topics

- Sexual assault is a pervasive crime
- Being victimized in this way is a profoundly harmful event
- Sexual assault is supported in society by a variety of false beliefs about who the crime happens to, who perpetrates it, and why it is perpetrated

Key Topics

- The tremendous costs of sexual assault are borne by the individual and society
- Victims don't get the basic medical care that they need right after an assault
- Victims don't participate in the criminal justice system because they don't want to be known as sexual assault victims in the community

References

- Kilpatrick, D., "*Rape, Other Violence Against Women, and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder: Critical Issues in Assessing the Adversity-Stress-Psychopathology Relationship."* in B. Dohrenwend, ed., Adversity, Stress, & Psychopathology Relationship, New York: Oxford University Press, 161-176,1998.
- Tjaden, P. and Thoennes, N., "*Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey",* Research in Brief, Washington, D.C., Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice,1998.
- Whatley, M., "*Victim Characteristics Influencing Attributions of Responsibility to Rape Victims: A Meta-Analysis*", Aggression and Violent Behavior, Vol.1, No.2, 81-95,1996.

References

- Tjaden, P. and Thoennes, N., "*Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence*", National Institute of Justice/Center for Disease Control, NCJ 181867, July 2000.
- Tjaden, P. and Thoennes, N., "*Full Report of the Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women*", National Institute of Justice/Center for Disease Control, NCJ 183781, November 2000.
- Driscoll, F., *"Common Expression"*, The Rape Poems, Pleasure Boat Studio, Port Angeles, WA, 1997.
- Fisher, B., "*The Sexual Victimization of College Women*", National Institute of Justice/Bureau of Justice Statistics, NCJ 182369, December 2000.
- Kilpatrick, D. et al., "*Rape In America: A Report to the Nation*", 1992.

References

- Rennison, C., *"Rape and Sexual Assault: Reporting to Police and Medical Attention, 1992-2000",* Bureau of Justice Statistics, NCJ 194530, August 2002.
- Stewart, F. and Trussell, J., "*Prevention of Pregnancy Resulting from Rape: A Neglected Preventive Health Measure*", American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Vol.19, No.4, 228-229, November 2000.
- Resnick, H., Monnier, J., Seals, B., Holmes, M., Nayak, M., Walsh, J., Weaver, T., Acierno, R., and Kilpatrick, D., "*Rape-Related HIV Risk Concerns Among Recent Rape Victims*", Journal of Interpersonal Violence, Vol.17, No.7, 746-759, 2002.
- *"Sexual Assault in Colorado: Results of a Statewide Survey"*, Colorado Department of Public Health & Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault, July 1999.
- Lisak, D., "*Male Victims of Sexual Assault*", Presentation given to New Mexico Coordinators of Sexual Assault Programs, Albuquerque, NM, August 2004.

References

- Sterman, L., Del Bove, G., and Addison, M., "*Stranger and Acquaintance Sexual Assault of Adult Males*", Journal of Interpersonal Violence, Vol.19, No.8, 901-915, August 2004.
- Merrill, L. et al., "*Childhood Abuse and Sexual Revictimization in a Female Navy Recruit Sample*", Journal of Traumatic Stress, Vol.12, No.2, 211-225, 1999.
- Merrill, L. et al., "*Prevalence of Pre-military Adult Sexual Victimization and Aggression in a Navy Recruit Sample*", Military Medicine, Vol.163, 209-212, April 1998.
- Fontana, A. and Rosenchek, R., "*Duty Related and Sexual Stress in the Etiology of PTSD Among Women Veterans Who Seek Treatment*", Psychiatric Service, Vol.49, No.5, 658-662, 1998.
- Hankin, C. et al., "*Prevalence of Depressive and Alcohol Abuse Symptoms Among Women VA Outpatients who Report Experiencing Sexual Assault While in the Military*", Journal of Traumatic Stress, Vol.12, No.4, 601-612, 1999.

References

- Sadler, A., Booth, B., Cook, B., and Doebbeling, B., "*Factors Associated with Women's Risk of Rape in the Military Environment*", American Journal of Industrial Medicine, Vol.44, No.1, 110, July 2003.
- Department of Defense, Annual Report on Sexual Assaults for Calendar Year 2005, March 2006.

References

- Berliner et al., "*Sexual Experiences and Perceptions of Community Response to Sexual Assault: A Survey of Washington Women*", Harborview Medical Center, November 2001.
- Campbell, R., "*The Role of Work Experience and Individual Beliefs in Police Officers' Perceptions of Date Rape: An Integration of Quantitative and Qualitative Methods*", American Journal of Community Psychology, Vol.23, No.2, 249-277, 1995.
- Department of Defense, Task Force Report on Care for Victims of Sexual Assault, April 2004.
- Hanson, "*The Psychological Impact Of Sexual Assault On Women And Children: A Review*", Annals of Sex Research, 3, 187-232, 1990.
- Holmes et al., "*Rape-related Pregnancy: Estimates and Descriptive Characteristics from a National Sample of W*omen", American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, 175, 320-324, 1996.

References

- Kilpatrick et al., "*Chapter 10 Sexual Assault*", National Victim Assistance Academy Manual, 2002.
- Koss, M., "*Detecting the Scope of Rape: A Review of the Prevalence Research Methods*", Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 8, 198-222, 1993.
- Koss et al., "*Criminal Victimization Among Primary Care Medical Patients: Prevalence, Incidence, and Physician Usage*", Behavioral Sciences and the Law, 9, 85-96, 1991.
- Lipari, R. and Lancaster, A., Defense Manpower Data Center, *"Armed Forces 2002 Sexual Harassment Survey"*, DMDC Report No.2004-001, March 2004.
- Post et al., "*The Rape Tax"*, Journal of Interpersonal Violence, Vol.17, No.7, 773-782, July 2002.

References

- Sadler, A. et al., "*Health Related Consequences of Physical and Sexual Violence: Women in the Military*", Vol.96, No.3, 473-480, 2000.